

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A catalyst composition for the isomerization of n-paraffin which comprises a  $\beta$ -zeolite having been synthesized according to a dry gel process and contains cerium, the  $\beta$ -zeolite being characterized in that it has an average particle  
5 diameter of 0.01~0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and the proportion of the cerium in the  $\beta$ -zeolite is within the range of 0.001~0.2 in terms of the atomic ratio of the silicon atom in the  $\beta$ -zeolite to the cerium atom, i.e.  $[\text{Ce}] / [\text{Si}]$ .

2. A process for isomerizing n-paraffin which comprises bringing n-paraffin into contact with the catalyst composition as set forth in claim 1.

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